



John E. Ekdahl

The Mayor's Address — January 1, 2018

The Borough Council members have met the year's challenges with diplomacy and with the dignity that would be expected from such an experienced Council. I applaud each of you for the contributions you have made on behalf of the residents of Rumson.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to every Borough employee, committee member and professional for their support and assistance throughout the past year.

I also want to thank Tom Rogers, the Municipal Clerk/Administrator for the leadership he provides each and every day. Thank you, Tom.

This year we welcome Robert (Rob) Swikart to the Council, replacing Ben Day whose term ended December 31, 2017. Ben's years of dedicated service included serving as a member and Chairman of the Public Relations/Communications Committee and was the Borough's Municipal Alliance Liaison, as well as the OEM Communication Representative. He also served as the Council's Recreation Commission Liaison. Ben has served on the Council since 2009, and prior to that was a member of the Rumson School Board. His successor, Robert Swikart, has been a lifelong resident of Rumson. He and his wife Alice have raised their three children here in Rumson. Councilman Gary Casazza and Councilman Robert Swikart were elected in November to a three year Council term. On behalf of the Council members and myself, it is our honor and privilege to serve our community as your volunteered elected representatives and we appreciate your support.

Infrastructure Improvements

The Borough has greatly benefited from recent utility infrastructure upgrades by New Jersey Natural Gas, New Jersey American Water, and Verizon. The upgrades have provided improved service reliability, increased hazard resiliency, and resulted in the resurfacing, either in part or full, of 30 Borough streets with an additional 10 streets scheduled for updating in 2018. Monmouth County's 2017 Resurfacing program paved portions of Bingham Avenue, Ridge Road, Avenue of Two Rivers, and Rumson Road totaling 2.5 miles of paving. Prior to the County's paving program, the Borough completed a long awaited curb and sidewalk program along Ridge Road and East River Road. This work was partially funded with a \$235,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation. The Borough also completed safety and aesthetic improvements to the Victory Park playground consisting of new safety surface materials, concrete edging, and seating walls.

The Borough continues to advance numerous infrastructure improvement projects with Street Resurfacing, Curb and Sidewalk Installation, Sanitary Sewer Lining to reduce groundwater intrusion, and Piping Rock Park upgrades planned for 2018. The Borough continues to pursue grant funding opportunities to offset projects costs. The most recent grant award was from the NJ Department of Transportation for \$185,000 towards the resurfacing of the balance of Hartshorne Lane that was not paved by New Jersey Natural Gas in 2017.

Major Community Events

Rumson is a small, close-knit town with a big heart and a lot of spirit. As such, there are numerous community events throughout the year that bring our residents together for fun and, often, to benefit a good cause. Some are sponsored by the Borough and others by independent entities, but all add to the feeling of community and togetherness long enjoyed by our residents.

The Fifth Annual Rumson Saint Patrick's Day Parade was celebrated in Rumson on Sunday, March 12, 2017 with floats, bands, Irish step dancers, veterans and military groups, novelty



(l to r): R. Swikart, L. Atwell, J. Hemphill, Mayor Ekdahl, M. Rubin, G. Casazza, J. Conklin

acts and representatives from local civic groups and area businesses in the mile long parade. Residents and guests lined River Road awash in green pride – a day everyone is Irish, enjoying the festive display. The Parade raises thousands of dollars to benefit local charities.

The Rumson Annual Baseball Parade was held on Saturday, May 6th. The baseball, softball and tee ball players and coaches walked from Forrestdale School to Piping Rock Memorial Park. Rec Director Kevin Delia offered a welcome speech and introduction to Mayor John Ekdahl and guest speaker Chuck Jones. Due to a shoulder injury, Mayor Ekdahl ceded to Mr. Jones' to throw out the ceremonial first pitch to Maddy DeSena. All families and players then stayed around for some refreshments that were served by members of the Rumson Recreation Commission.

The Annual Memorial Day Parade and Service was held on Monday, May 29th, at the Oceanic Firehouse due to inclement weather. Once again the town came together to honor those who gave their lives in service to our country. The Ceremony showcased a National Anthem sung by Rumson resident Mackenzie Doherty and the keynote speaker was Petty Officer, Mark Molyneux.

The Kelleher Kids Triathlon held its 8th annual event at Victory Park on Sunday, June 11th. This treasured family event had over 250 children, ages 14 and under, participating in the Swim, Bike, and Run, while hundreds of parents, supporters and volunteers cheered them on. The event raises funds for Rumson EMS and Rumson Recreation, two organizations dear to former resident Bob Kelleher, in whose memory the event is held each year.

The Eighth Annual Rumson Boat Race featuring the Governor's Cup took place on September 23rd, on the Navesink River. Local families provided housing for 150 visiting collegiate athletes and coaches from Army, Drexel, Villanova and Coast Guard Academy. These disciplined athletes provided inspiration and camaraderie to our RFH High School Rowing Team. Proceeds from the Boat Race support the RFH Rowing Program.

The Rumson Halloween Party took place on Sunday, October 29th, at Forrestdale School Cafeteria. A smaller crowd showed up this year due to the inclement weather but they were ready to have fun in their costumes. Special Events Coordinator, Zach Wilson took over the reins this year and had help from RFH High School volunteers. The students ran game booths and the Rumson Seniors judged the costume contest for each age group and best group costume. Rec Commissioners, Kerry Chandler and Dorothy Whitehouse and Councilwoman Laura Atwell also pitched in to make the event a success.

The Veterans Day Service at Victory Park on November 11th was highlighted by guest speaker, Rumson resident Albert M. Ponenti, Lieutenant Colonel (NJSP) Deputy Superintendent of Homeland Security. He reminded us all of the sacrifices made by the men and women who have served our country. Many thanks to Father Michael Manning from Holy Cross Church for leading those present in prayer, and to the Scouts from Troop 201 for the posting of the colors. Mackenzie Doherty performed a moving rendition of the National Anthem.

The Traditional Christmas Tree Lighting in Victory Park on December 3rd was a wonderful way to begin the holiday season – perfect weather, delicious snacks, and heartwarming holiday favorites. The Deane-Porter Third Grade Chorus kicked off the event with their lively carols, followed by Tim McLoone and The Shirleys, and select members of Holiday Express, who entertained the crowd until almost 6:30pm. Santa’s arrival with Rudolph and Olaf added to the festive atmosphere. The Rumson Christmas Tree Lighting is truly a highlight of the Rumson Community Calendar.

Monmouth University

On September 26th, we were very excited to announce what we hope will be a long partnership between the Borough of Rumson and Monmouth University. For years, the University has used our Boat Ramp as a starting point for their research in the Navesink River and in surrounding waterways. The University, specifically the Schools of Science, has grown significantly in recent years. The Borough and the University announced plans to construct the Monmouth Marine and Environmental Field Station at the ribbon cutting event, which was attended by many Borough and University Officials. The station will be located above the existing Sewer Pump Station, adjacent to the Boat Ramp and the Recycling Facility. The facility will provide unique opportunities for scientific research and educational collaboration between the professionals and students of the University and our local Borough schools. Tentative plans call for classroom, laboratory and meeting spaces. The facility will provide convenient access to the water for the University’s research vessels, one of which you may have seen stored at the Sewer Pump Station. The University has already begun working with our teachers in the Forrestdale School on the science research they are conducting in our waterways and on local islands. Fundraising for the construction of the facility will begin in 2018.

Ordinances

All Borough Ordinances can be viewed on line by logging onto our web site at www.rumsonnj.gov.

Police Department

We congratulate Ptl. Cody Lovgren as he takes over the position of Detective for our agency in 2018. We also thank Chris Isherwood for his extraordinary effort serving as the department’s detective for the last few years.

Commendations to Sgt. Ronald Vilardi for leading the way along with Det. Sgt. Isherwood. Ptl. Richard Torres and Captain Nixon for a successful CPR save that revived a Rumson resident. Captain Nixon, Lt. Chris York and Ptl. Grace Maggiulli are certified as Emergency Medical Technicians.

We would like to thank Ptl. Bryan Dougherty, Ptl. Richard Torres and Ptl. Grace Maggiulli all who had another successful year teaching LEAD, Law Enforcement Against Drugs, to 6th graders

at Forrestdale School. Our police force works with the Forrestdale School and joined both the 6th and 8th grades to Camp Bernie and Washington DC as chaperones. Sgt. Anthony Ciambrone organized, with collaboration of the Rumson PTO, a very successful Bike Rodeo for the children of Rumson. We want to recognize Sgt. Robert Boyer in particular and the members of the Rumson Police Department for their coordination, management and safe supervision of all our special events throughout 2017 such as: the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Kelleher Triathlon, Navesink Sink or Swim, Rumson Crew Race, and the Christmas Tree Lighting to name just a few.

New officers appointed in 2017 included Michael Volker who was promoted to Special Law Enforcement Officer Class 2, Dispatcher Hunter Dreuer and finally, Tim Funk and Thomas Lonergan as Special Law Enforcement Officer Class 1.

We are excited to share that Ptl. Michael Berger and his wife Carissa welcomed their son Cruz Michael into the world this past year. We unfortunately lost longtime Rumson Police Department family members including Jennifer Tobias and Adam Tobias, wife and son of former Chief Richard Tobias and June Gaynor, wife/widow of former Chief John Gaynor and mother of Ptl. Kevin Gaynor in 2017.

We congratulate Rumson Police Chief Scott Paterson who was named President of the Monmouth County Chief’s Association for the year 2018, earlier this month.

Rumson EMS



EMS Captain Mary Nichols

The Rumson First Aid Squad has dozens of volunteer members, many of whom have completed the rigorous, 250-hour Emergency Medical Technician course.

In addition to answering calls within Rumson, these volunteers frequently respond to emergency calls in Sea Bright, Fair Haven, Atlantic Highlands and Highlands

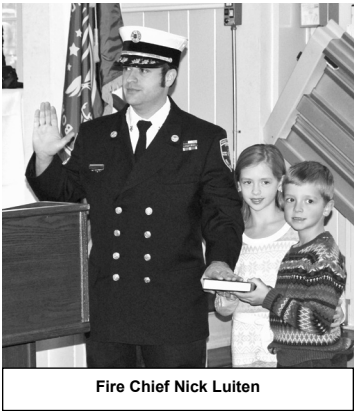
for mutual aid assignments. The Rumson First Aid Squad employs state of art equipment including electronic patient care reports which are new this year. First Aid Squad volunteers also participated in extensive training drills throughout 2017 including classes in CEVO driver training, active shooter response, vehicle extrication, incident command, Narcan administration, and auto-pulse CPR.

The residents of Rumson should take pride and comfort in knowing that their First Aid Squad is ready, 24-hours per day, to respond to every medical emergency. Rumson EMS receives funding from the Borough, the Rumson Community Appeal, the EMS Fund Drive and the Kelleher Kids Triathlon. EMS is always looking for additional members, including Cadets starting at 16 years old. Please contact Borough Hall for an application.

Rumson Fire Department

The Rumson Fire Department responds to numerous fire calls in the Borough and in surrounding towns and is staffed solely by trained volunteer members. The Department was ably led by Fire Chief Mike Trivett and Assistant Fire Chief Nick Luiten.

The Oceanic Hook & Ladder Company congratulates Darren Berry for obtaining his “life membership.” Christopher Davidson and Joseph Eskridge have completed 25 years of continuous active service, and we thank them for that. We also



Fire Chief Nick Luiten

thank all of the volunteer officers and membership that continue to support our Borough Fire Department.

Unfortunately, Oceanic Hook & Ladder Company has lost two long time members. John P. Kennedy, 54 year member passed away in April and Patrick Karinja, 69 year member passed away in August. They will be missed and we are grateful for their devoted service.



residents are encouraged to apply and learn about how they can assist with the Borough’s fire protection. Applications for the Fire Department can be obtained through Borough Hall.

Department of Public Works

Rumson’s Department of Public Works continues to operate a robust and successful Recycling Program. In May and October, Rumson Recycling conducts Green Day events, in which electronics and books may be recycled and materials shredded. This year, DPW collected 11,960 pounds of shredding, 10,160 pounds of electronics, and 4,000 pounds of books. Green Day is funded by a State Recycling Tonnage Grant.

We’d like to welcome Fair Haven resident Nick Lenczyk, who joined the team this year as a full time DPW member. Nick has worked for the Monmouth County Road Department for the past five years.

Residents are reminded to please stop dumping cooking grease/cooking oil down their drains. This practice costs the Borough thousands of dollars to clean out the Borough’s sewer infrastructure. In addition, residents are requested not to flush baby wipes or other “flushable” wipes, as these clog the drains and pumps.

Department of Public Works Toy Drive

The Department of Public Works Toy Drive in early December was a great success. The Toy Drive brought in 600 toys, which were distributed to Family and Children’s Services and the Salvation Army in Red Bank and will benefit local children in need. Thanks to everyone for your generous gifts, and to our Public Works employees who donated their time to help. Once again, you have made Santa’s job a little easier.

Historic Preservation Commission

Under the leadership of Charley Shay, Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission, the Commission continues to be a resource to the community, as well as, maintaining and enhancing the Historic Preservation Commission website. The inventory of properties on the website has been updated and two new virtual tours have been added, incorporating properties in the inventory.

The Borough was pleased to present the first Historic Preservation Awards at the May 23, 2017 Borough Council Meeting. The Historic Preservation Commission implemented the Awards Program in 2016 so that each year they might honor a project(s) and/or individual(s) for their contribution to the preservation of our historic resources. The three 2017 Award recipients were Randall Gabrielan – Preservation Champion, Jon and Lauren Carras – Sympathetic/Sensitive Addition and John and Marjorie Tedesco – Stewardship. Details of the Awards Program and the 2017 Award presentation can be found on the HPC website. The 2018 Award Program nomination process begins in January.

Rumson Fire Company welcomed new members Robert Hemphill, Jacob Burns, Ralph Delia Jr., and Michael O’Connor.

The Rumson Fire Department is supported in part by resident contributions each year and they would like to offer their sincerest thanks for your support. Volunteers are always needed and Borough

The Commission was pleased to welcome Jon Carras as a new member. Jon and his wife Lauren were recipients of the 2017 Award for their dedication to the restoration of 30 Lafayette Street. Jon joins this dedicated group of resident volunteers and their efforts in preserving the history of our community.

This past year the Commission also developed a project plan for maintenance and upgrades to the Rumson Road Cemetery property. The Borough enthusiastically endorsed the plan and directed the Department of Public Works to complete the requested maintenance projects, which in addition to the property itself, included replacing the cemetery fence along Rumson Road.

Shade Tree Commission

The Shade Tree Commission (STC) had a very fruitful year, fulfilling its goals in many areas.

The Borough celebrated its 26th Anniversary being recognized as a Tree City USA. This is a prestigious honor and only 35 other municipalities in the state have been awarded the designation for 25 or more years. The Borough was also awarded with a Tree City Growth Award, which is given to recognize higher levels of tree care, innovative projects and programs, as well as increased commitment of resources for urban forestry. This is the first time the Borough has received this award.

A primary objective of the Commission is public outreach and education, which is achieved in several ways. The STC’s annual lecture was given by Dr. Jason Grabosky, who is a professor of forestry at Rutgers University. He spoke on trees in public spaces and their needs to grow and flourish. The lecture was the first collaboration of the Shade Tree Commissions from Atlantic Highlands, Fair Haven, Shrewsbury and Little Silver and was very informative and well attended. The group plans to continue collaborating to have a greater impact upon the urban forest in our area.

Our annual Arbor Day celebration was held at Deane Porter School, the kindergarten class planted a beautiful Yellowwood tree on campus. The STC also visited Rumson Country Day School kindergarten classes and gave a lively presentation on the benefits of trees. Students from both schools received tree seedlings to plant at home. The STC is an advisory board; partnerships with other Borough departments, community groups, and organizations are vital to fulfill its mission. The STC has had a long standing relationship with the Rumson Garden Club and the Borough’s DPW, who maintain the trees along our streets and in our parks. This year the STC assisted the Garden Club in hosting a successful native plant sale in May.

Environmental Commission

The Environmental Commission (EC) had an exciting year hosting events and facilitating environmentally focused projects in the community. The EC’s primary mission is to educate residents on the environment and how they can help protect and enhance it. In addition, the EC will partner with groups to help move towards a more sustainable community.

The EC worked with the Forrestdale School Spirit Club to educate students and families on the importance of reducing plastic water bottle usage. The Spirit Club sold reusable water bottles and offered sponsorships to raise funds to install bottle filling stations in the school. Through their efforts, they were able to purchase 6 bottle-filling stations which will be installed this year.

Rumson! Clean-Up Your Parks Day was held on Opening Day of the Rumson Rec baseball season at five of the Borough’s parks. Teams of baseball players, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, National Junior Honor Society students and interested residents helped scour the parks and gather 6 giant bags of debris. Prizes were given for the “most interesting garbage finds” which provided many laughs and enthusiasm.

Parks & Recreation

Rumson Recreation offers over 20 programs annually enjoyed by more than 4500 residents of all ages. Activities include a variety of recreational youth sports and non-sports programming, summer camps, as well as featured family events and holiday parades. Rumson Rec also offers rowing programs for high school and middle school students, seasonal job opportunities for local teenagers, and provides support to the Rumson Senior Citizens Club. 2017 brought on a new user friendly registration and sports management system. The new system streamlines the registration process and helps us manage the participants and teams in a much more efficient manner.

Rumson Rec utilizes over 300 volunteer coaches each year and provides volunteer opportunities for local teens and seniors. These volunteers are the cornerstone of our programs’ success. The Rumson Recreation Commission would like to thank all our Rec volunteers for their time and devotion to the benefit of our children and our community. We would also like to thank our parents and participants for their support.

Maintaining the highest quality parks and recreational spaces is a high priority for the Borough. As such, grass playing fields are periodically closed for rest and maintenance and DPW is regularly checking our facilities to ensure maximum safety. As part of our on-going park maintenance, the Borough performed updates to the playground equipment at Victory Park and put in new edging around the play area. A new batting cage was installed at Meadow Ridge Park and the fitness equipment was reconditioned. Permanent pitching mounds were built by our Parks Department at both Riverside Baseball Diamonds and the basketball courts and tennis courts at Rogers Park were resurfaced as well.

Tax Assessor

In 2017, 36 new homes were completed in Rumson, contributing significantly to the approximately \$33,581,500 in added ratables for the year.

The Borough continued participation in the Monmouth County Assessment Demonstration Program. Approximately twenty percent of the properties in Rumson are inspected each year. However, all properties values in the Borough are considered each year in the annual assessment process. The program’s goal is to keep all properties at current market value each year and thus each homeowner paying their fair share of property taxes annually.

Borough Staff & Commission Volunteer Updates

We appreciate our Borough’s municipal staff, which continues to provide the best and most courteous service to our residents. Borough Hall employees provide the high level of services our residents expect, as they work within the budget and regulatory constraints set forth by the State of New Jersey.

Personally, I would like to extend a special thank you to the Chairs and Members of all the various boards in Rumson. Each one of you volunteers a considerable amount of time attending meetings and reviewing issues important to this community. Your personal commitment is Rumson’s most valuable asset and is greatly appreciated. Your spirit of volunteerism is exemplary.

Our Police Department, volunteer Fire Department and First Aid Squad are to be commended for their unconditional commitment to the safety and welfare of our residents, addressing every emergency with courtesy and respect. We appreciate your service, thank you.

On behalf of all our Council Members and myself, I want to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

May God Bless us all and God Bless America.

Sincerely,

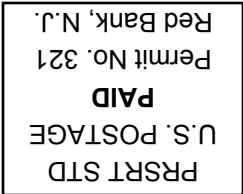
John E. Eldahl

Mayor

The Historic Preservation Commission is now accepting nominations for the 2018 Award Program. The nomination form for 2018 is available on the HPC site at <http://www.rumsonnj.gov/rhpc> and can be submitted electronically.

Please note that the deadline for all 2018 nominations is March 31, 2018.

RUMSON BOROUGH BULLETIN
POSTAL CUSTOMER LOCAL
RUMSON, NEW JERSEY 07760



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